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GENERAL

NO. 028

1. Commission's views on Israeli application for UN membership-- According to US representative Ethridge, the Palestine Conciliation Commission at Lausanne feels that, if Israel gains admission to the UN at this session of the General Assembly, the Israeli delegation at Lausanne will become "hopelessly intransigent" in the peace talks with the Arabs. The Commission believes that if Israel's application is rejected, the Israelis will maintain their present position as best they can, pending the September General Assembly session, but that the Arabs will be more confident in negotiating with the Israelis.

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2. CHINA: US Navy withdrawal from Tsingtao urged-- US Ambassador Stuart suggests that the continued use of Tsingtao by US naval forces should now be reviewed in the light of the steady southward advance of the Communist armies. In Stuart's view, the maintenance of the present Nationalist position at Tsingtao will not possibly affect Nationalist capabilities for resistance in South China. Stuart believes that it would be more politic to withdraw US naval forces from Tsingtao immediately rather than do so in a few more days or weeks when faced by a determined Communist attack.
3. KOREA: Decision concerning withdrawal held urgent-- The Department of State has informed US Ambassador Muccio in Seoul that a clearcut decision concerning the implementation of the scheduled US troop withdrawal is urgent. The Department believes that President Rhee should be disabused of an impression that the US is willing to "pay any price" for his concurrence with US intentions concerning the withdrawal. It should be made clear

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to Rhee, in the Department's opinion, that US capabilities to provide military aid to the Republic of Korea are severely limited. The Department further believes that Rhee should be informed at once of US intentions to complete the withdrawal of occupation troops by 30 June. The Department indicates, however, that if Ambassador Muccio has fundamentally revised his previous estimates regarding the feasibility of troop withdrawal, a complete reappraisal of US policy concerning withdrawal may be justified.

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